

Minehead Area Panel

Notes of meeting held on 8 June 2011 at Minehead Middle School, Ponsford Road, Minehead

Present:

Sandra Slade (Chair)	Member of the Public
Adrian Dyer	West Somerset Council
Cllr David Sanders	West Somerset Council
Cllr Andrew Hadley	West Somerset Council
Cllr Ian Melhuish	West Somerset Council
Cllr Maureen Smith	West Somerset Council
Cllr Richard Lillis	West Somerset Council
Cllr Paul Grierson	West Somerset Council/Minehead Town Council
Cllr John Clyde-Smith	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Oliver Harvey	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Minehead Town Council (part of meeting)
Cllr Danny McGee	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Stan Taylor	Minehead Town Council
Cllr Brenda Maitland-Walker	Somerset County Council
David Peake	Somerset County Council (Highways)
Mark Middleton-Smith	Avon & Somerset Police
Bryan Stevens	Avon & Somerset Police
Steve Grainger	Butlins
Richard Swift	Butlins
Clara Lawrie	About My Area website
Ken Sims	Member of the Public
Mrs E A Taylor	Member of the Public
John Vicary	Member of the Public
Sarah Wilsher	West Somerset Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Sandra Slade welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions took place.

Sandra explained that following the elections she was no longer a Councillor, but that she was willing to remain as Chair of the Panel unless someone else wished to take on this role. She asked anyone who wished to stand as Chair to let Sarah know before the next meeting.

ACTION: Anyone who wishes to stand as Chair of the Minehead Area Panel to contact Sarah on 01984 635296, email: swwilsher@westsomerset.gov.uk

Apologies for absence were received from Jenny Lennon-Wood (Minehead Development Trust), Sue Lloyd (Member of the Public), PS Tom Mayberry (Avon & Somerset Police), Cllr Doug Ross (West Somerset Council), Inspector Lisa Simpson (Avon & Somerset Police), Graham Sizer (Minehead Chamber of Trade), Pete Slade (Member of the Public), Cllr Molly Studley (Minehead Town Council)

It was agreed that Item 4 would be moved to after Item 8.

2. Have Your Say – Community Issues/Concerns

No issues were raised.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 March 2011

The Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Item 2 (a) – College Parking Site Works: It was noted that the work had started in April and David Peake and Adrian confirmed that the tarmacing and white lining was near completion and then barriers would be set up in order to allow access only to those authorised to use the parking area. West Somerset Community College was funding the work which was being done by Somerset County Council.

Item 2 (g) – Peter Slade advised that the rhyne around Morrisons was dirty and that once it emerged from under the petrol station it was empty of water but full of rubbish: David Peake had brought a plan to the meeting which showed the locations of the rhyne, culverts, open ditches, etc. in Minehead. After the meeting Sandra to mark on the plan the location of the rhyne in question so that Somerset County Council could make investigations as to the ownership of the rhyne and contact them accordingly.

Item 3 – Bus stop on Seaward Way serving Morrisons: Stan advised that a bus shelter was now in situ.

Item 2 –Overhanging trees and shrubs along the footpath in Ellicombe Meadow – this had been raised by Mr Padfield at 8 December 2010 Panel meeting: David Peake stated that this would be looked into and the work done if still required.

Item 10 – Butlins Land Train: Sandra reported that Butlins had obtained approval from the District and County Councils for the land train to go up Blenheim Road, stopping outside the old casualty department and then continuing down The Parade and The Avenue, and that it was successfully running.

Item 10 – Seafront Lights: Adrian reported that there was a problem with the fuses, which were made in Italy. The majority were now working but this would be an ongoing problem.

Sandra raised the outstanding issue of the bus stop in Townsend Road (opposite the Catholic Church) still not having any road markings, although the road had now been resurfaced and other new markings made. David Peake advised that now the relevant section of resurfacing had been completed an order would be placed for laying down the bus stop markings which would hopefully be completed within the next two to three months.

4. Police Report

Bryan Stevens reported that the current priorities included continuing the control of alcohol designation areas. Last year a dispersal order had been made on Blenheim Gardens and they were currently monitoring the Gardens to decide whether or not a dispersal order would be required for this year. To date there was no evidence that one was needed. One of the biggest crime issues was currently petty criminal damage, particularly of vehicles. This was a difficult matter for the police to solve. CCTV cameras had been set up inside houses to cover the targeted vehicles and heavier patrols were taking place in areas where damage had occurred but because it was a generic rather than specific problem it was difficult to target offenders.

The Friday/Saturday night time economy issue was also a priority with extra patrols put in place to achieve a reasonable level of control and to safeguard the town.

It was noted that Mark Middleton-Smith used to be a PCSO in Williton and had only recently moved to Alcombe.

5 **Highway Matters**

David Peake reported on the following highway surface dressing programme:

Completed comprised:

- The Esplanade
- Quay West
- Quay Street
- Martlet Road
- Hill Road to Selworthy Beacon

To be done in late July 2011:

- Beacon Road
- Burgundy Road
- Northfield Road
- Church Road
- Moor Road
- Church Street
- Vicarage Road

Deferred until next Summer due to forthcoming gas main work:

- Pemswell Road
- St Michaels Road

Other recent/ongoing highway work included:

- Footway resurfacing of Regents Way
- Highway gully replacement work at the junction of Ponsford Road and King George Road.
- Construction of new car park at West Somerset Community College (see 'Matters Arising').

Andrew Hadley advised that after tarmacing the Poundfield Road/West Street junction the white give way lines had not been replaced. David would look into this.

ACTION: David Peake to look into the absence of white give way lines across the Poundfield Road/West Street junction.

It was noted that CJ Lynch were doing work to re-model the junction for the Hayfield Close development at the end of Fownes Road. The meeting expressed concern with the highway work that was being done and Brenda explained that this could not be changed as it was part of the approved planning application for the residential development.

Sandra also informed that she had received concerns from Engage at Alcombe Village Hall regarding the proposed vehicular access via Marshfield Road for the current planning application for residential development at Silvermead, which would be determined by West Somerset Council.

7. **Burning Issues**

There was no representative in attendance or report from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.

8. District Council Update

Adrian reported the following:

- The shelters at Culvercliffe had been vandalised and investigations were taking place.
- Maintenance improvements were being made at Minehead harbour as fishing was occurring in the wrong area leading to bait and caught fish being left on seats where people sit.
- Somerset PCT were putting up improved signage for the new Minehead hospital.
- There was a rumour going round that the old hospital had been sold. This was not the case. West Somerset Council had been helping Minehead Development Trust (MDT) and facilitating discussions with Somerset PCT. Following a meeting of MDT and the property branch of the PCT a few months ago the PCT gave MDT a time period in which to come up with a business case and the relevant funds and this agreement would be honoured by the PCT. However, if no procurement arrangement was made within this time frame then the building would be marketed by the PCT.
- The open air market had returned to its previous site opposite Tesco. The market operators had been written to, however, they had the permission of the landowner and legally they were allowed to operate for 14 occasions in any one year without needing planning permission. The fourteenth occasion would be on 6 September 2011.

Stan Taylor stated that in the past the market had left owing a considerable amount of council tax. Adrian advised that if a business went into liquidation directors were banned from operating, however, other people could become directors and act for the company. Also, business rates were not due whilst the market was at its present site opposite Tesco. Brenda Maitland-Walker asked whether the market was operating close to the Environment Agency works in the area. Adrian replied that this was not known and it was up to the Environment Agency to investigate. He also confirmed that the market operators did not require a license.

- Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) – the Police did not have the resources to enforce illegal parking. In Taunton Deane CPE was introduced whereby the District Council was the enforcer and this led to parking meters being set up in Taunton centre. The idea was originally to introduce CPE as a countywide scheme, however, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils have rejected the offer of the scheme for financial reasons. West Somerset Council were awaiting further information in order to undertake a financial evaluation. CPE would go to Cabinet in late 2011 and, if approved, the earliest it could be implemented would be February 2012, particularly as in order to run CPE an application would have to be made to the Department for Transport to have the powers invested upon them. Under the scheme car park inspectors, employed under the partnership, would enforce parking in district council car parks and on roads with yellow lines. Fines issued would be used to pay the inspectors. The advantage of CPE should be improved traffic management within Minehead.
- Minehead ferry – both ferries owned by Severn Link, the Company who wanted to operate out of Minehead, have been sold.
- The middle section of the footpath between Morrisons and West Somerset Railway is owned by WSC. However, the lights in this section have had to be replaced six times due to vandalism. They will no longer be replaced until such time as finances allow lights to be installed which are taller than the vandals.

- The bunds (previously flotation tanks) on the seafront that provide seating but were used and damaged by skateboarders, have been repaired and would now be painted.
- Thanks to Butlins the Red Arrows would be returning to Minehead on 10 August, together with the Red Devils, a helicopter display and enhanced stalls. Richard Swift advised that there would also be a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, which would mark the anniversary of the Spitfire at the same time as Butlins celebrate their 75th year in Minehead.
- The barriers on Warren Road car park had been moved to prevent tyre damage to vehicles exiting the car park.
- Hinkley Point – would have an impact on tourism in Minehead, particularly with 5,600 workers at the peak of the construction work. The Council were looking to determine the planning application for the preliminary works on 28 July 2011 and the venue for the Planning Committee meeting would be either in Williton or east of Williton. 40% of the entire capacity of West Somerset Council were working on Hinkley Point vis-à-vis negating adverse impacts and jobs/training prospects, etc.

Clara Lawrie asked for an update on the coach park site behind the West Somerset Railway. Adrian reported that work had not started until 31 May due to an issue with lawyers concerning the ownership of a very small piece of the site. It was noted that lorries and campervans had used the temporary coach park on the Aquasplash site during the hours of darkness.

In response to a query from Ken Sims, Adrian advised that the geographical/parish area covered by the Minehead Area Panel comprised Minehead, Alcombe, Minehead Without and Selworthy. It was noted that there were three other Area Panels in West Somerset: Dunster Area Panel (next meeting on 18 July at West Somerset House in Williton), Williton, Watchet and Quantocks Area Panel and Exmoor Area Panel. Corporate Director, Bruce Lang, looked after the Dunster and Exmoor Area Panels, whilst Adrian looked after the Minehead and Williton, Watchet and Quantocks Area Panel.

9. Strategic Vision for Minehead – An update

Adrian Dyer reported that the Visioning Group would next meet on 14 June 2011. The Group wished to progress the engagement of a 'Town Centre Manager' who would promote Minehead as a whole not just the town centre. Minehead Town Council decided to defer the appointment of the position until after the elections and therefore would consider the issue at their full Council meeting on 21 June, when Corinne Matthews, Economic and Regeneration Officer for WSC, would attend. Minehead Town Council would make a recommendation to West Somerset Council's Cabinet and depending upon the recommendation, if Cabinet approved, the funds could be released by the district council, which was acting as banker for the grants, etc. Marcus felt that post should be entitled Minehead Economic Manager rather than Town Centre Manager, which had restrictive connotations.

John Clyde-Smith informed the Panel that Chris Marrow of Severn Link was disappointed with the lack of facilities in Minehead, Penarth, Swanage and Ilfracombe. There were investors willing to put money into a dock and ferries, but they were reluctant to do so as they did not know the return they would obtain on their investment. Chris Marrow proposed to construct two ships in September which would hold 234 people and have an loading/off-loading ramp facility and be used for a scheduled operating ferry service.

Stan advised that he had been involved with considerations in the past on a possible ferry service from Minehead and that he was willing to provide this information if anyone wished to see it. He would like to see a jetty at the Butlins end of the seafront, which would lead to car parking and a ferry service.

10 Any Other Business

Minehead Town Council Update

Stan said that as there was 'District Council Update' on the agenda he would like to see 'Minehead Town Council Update' as a standing agenda item. He also raised the following issues:

1. A bus shelter was needed at the hospital and Somerset PCT needed to be approached in this respect.
2. Minehead Town Council wished to put up bunting in the town next year when it was the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II. The Town Council needed to consider if they had sufficient funds, where the bunting should go so as not to restrict the view of CCTV cameras and how it should be attached.
3. Minehead Town Council's contract with the District Council in relation to the Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre would end on 31 October 2011.
4. Minehead Town Council proposed that a further 19 salt bins should be supplied around Minehead/Alcombe.
5. The play equipment at Culvercliffe was no longer sufficient and reference was made to the new facilities now available at Cross Farm Park in Alcombe.

The issues were responded to, as follows:

2. David Peake advised that the Minehead Town Council clerk needed to contact SCC Highways regarding putting up bunting and Adrian felt that the three tiers of local government should be able to work together to enable the bunting to be displayed. Marcus stated that he would like to know where the CCTV cameras were located. Bryan Stevens replied that the Town Council owned the cameras which were facilitated by the Police and operated from the police station in Minehead. Bryan and Marcus to get together after the meeting.
3. Adrian emphasised that West Somerset Council were not turning away from tourism. At present expressions of interest were being sought from community groups to run the Visitor Information and Interpretation Centre, so that it could be operated along similar lines to Porlock Visitor Centre and Watchet Tourist Information Centre. He added that there were covenants on the land and building which restrict their use.
5. The new Cross Farm Park play equipment had been funded by the Big Lottery and community fund raising, whilst Culvercliffe play equipment was funded by the district council.

Out of Hours Emergency Cover by Medical Professionals in West Somerset

Brenda expressed concern with the lack of out of hours cover by doctors or experienced qualified paramedics within West Somerset. She had been reliably informed that West Somerset was the worst covered part of the county and was included in a wide area ranging from Chard to Porlock. Similarly, the minor injuries unit at the new Minehead hospital had poor GP coverage. The Panel agreed with Brenda's concerns and it was decided that an initial approach would be made to Jan Hull at Somerset PCT.

ACTION: Sarah to draft a letter, on behalf of Minehead Area Panel, to Jan Hull of Somerset PCT regarding the lack of emergency cover by medical professionals in West Somerset.

Recycling of Business Waste

Marcus Kravis stated his disappointment that his recycling waste had been included in the refuse waste rather than being recycled. Andrew Hadley added that businesses had to sign a 'duty of care', however often their recycling went in with the normal refuse. Adrian advised that, unlike domestic refuse, there was no statutory

duty on West Somerset Council to collect business waste and businesses needed to make their own arrangements for the collection and disposal of their waste and pay for this. Maureen Smith was aware of a County Council officer who had been encouraging businesses to work together for the collection of their waste. It was agreed that Adrian would ask Somerset Waste Partnership if there were any developments afoot to help businesses co-ordinate their waste collection and disposal.

ACTION: Adrian Dyer to enquire of Somerset Waste Partnership whether there were any plans to help businesses co-ordinate their waste collection and disposal.

Alzheimers Society and Local Services

Sandra reported that the Alzheimers Society were looking to increase awareness of the Society and the Somerset Dementia Advisor Service and to this end were arranging talks at parish council meetings and the meetings of other groups/organisations in the county. She asked whether the Area Panel meeting would like the Alzheimers Society to come to a future meeting of the Panel. It was agreed that this would be helpful and the Society should be given the dates of future meetings so that their representative could arrange to attend a suitable meeting.

ACTION: Sarah to pass on the details of future meetings of the Minehead Area Panel to the Alzheimers Society representative so that they could arrange to attend a meeting of their choice.

11 Date & Venue of Future Meetings

Future meeting to be held on:

Wednesday 14 September 2011 at 6pm at Minehead Middle School.

Wednesday 14 December 2011

Wednesday 14 March 2011